

1 JUN 73

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 TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1530
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E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: SENV, UR, OTRA
 SUBJ: ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: FIRST MEETING OF JOINT WORKING
 GROUP (JWG) ON EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON MARINE ORGANISMS

1. SUBJECT MEETING HELD IN THE US MAY 14-26, 1973. MINUTES BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY; SUBSTANCE SUMMARIZED BELOW. US SIDE CHAIRED BY DR. ERIC SCHNEIDER, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE WATER QUALITY LABORATORY, WEST KINGSTON, RHODE ISLAND. (NMWQL IS AN EPA FACILITY REPORTING TO THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MONITORING.) SOVIET SIDE CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR VADIM D. FEDOROV, HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF HYDROBIOLOGY, BIOLOGY/SOIL FACULTY, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY.

2. NEXT JWG MEETING PLANNED FOR FALL OF THIS YEAR. THE CO-CHAIRMEN AGREED TO TIME IT SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE JWG CAN MAKE ONE OR MORE PRESENTATIONS AS PART OF THE TRAIN-FEDOROV MEETINGS, IF THIS IS AGREEABLE TO CEQ AND HYDROMET. FALL MEETING WILL BE SMALL, CONCENTRATING ON FINALIZATION OF WORK BEGUN AT FIRST MEETING. SPRING 1974 MEETING ALSO PLANNED FOR USSR, AND FEDOROV HOPES TO ARRANGE EXTENSIVE ITINERARY INCLUDING SEVASTOPOL, BALTIC, AND ARCTIC RESEARCH LOCATIONS.

3. TWENTY TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH WERE IDENTIFIED AND INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES. BOTH SIDES WILL PREPARE DETAILED PLANS FOR COOPERATION TO BE FINALIZED AT THE FALL MEETING; THUS THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TOPICS MAY BE ADDED, MODIFIED, OR DELETED. TOPICS RANGE FROM THE GENERAL ("EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON STABILITY OF MARINE ECOSYSTEMS" AND "MONITORING STRATEGIES") TO THE VERY SPECIFIC ("CHEMICAL SPECIATION AND ANALYSIS OF TRACE

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ELEMENTS IN SEAWATER AND ORGANISMS"). EXCHANGES OF RESEARCHERS, LECTURERS, AND CONSULTANTS ARE PROVIDED FOR IN THE MINUTES, AND THE JWG WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE LONG-TERM COMBINED RESEARCH PROJECTS AND EXPEDITIONS. EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION WILL BE EXTENSIVE. THE JWG IS ENTUSIASTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING A JOINT MONTHLY MARINE POLLUTION JOURNAL, WHICH WOULD HAVE A JOINT US-USSR EDITORIAL BOARD; THIS ALSO WILL BE FURTHER CONSIDERED AT THE FALL MEETING.

4. JWG'S ITINERARY INCLUDED WOODS HOLE, MIAMI, DISNEY WORLD, EPA'S GULF BREEZE LAB, HOUSTON (WHERE THEY WERE MADE HONORARY CITIZENS AND GIVEN TEN-GALLON HATS), SEATTLE, AND SAN DIEGO. GROUP RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND SAW THEMSELVES ON EVENING TV NEWS A NUMBER OF TIMES. RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET SIDES WERE EXCELLENT; BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY PRODUCTIVE; BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY PRODUCTIVE, AND THERE WAS ALMOST NO DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING ON THE LIST OF TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ONLY TOPIC OMITTED WAS EFFECTS OF THERMAL POLLUTION; THIS WAS DONE ON BASIS OF SOVIET INDICATION THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE SUCH PROBLEMS.

5. SCHNEIDER PARTICULARLY APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S HELP IN REVISING TIMING OF SOVIET DELEGATION'S VISIT, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO SUCCESS OF MEETINGS. ROGERS

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